

NOVEMBER 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Shift 7:00 pm Bible Study-Café 7:30 pm	5	3	4
5 Prayer Time-10:00 am Worship Service D6 & Beginnings 10:30 am GROWTH TRACK Step 1: Welcome Lunch	6	7	8 Shift 7:00 pm Bible Study-Café 7:30 pm	9 Senior Ministry 2:00 pm	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11
12 Prayer Time-10:00 am Worship Service D6 & Beginnings 10:30 am GROWTH TRACK Step 2: Essentials	13	14	15 Shift 7:00 pm Bible Study-Café 7:30 pm	16	17	18
19 Prayer Time-10:00 am Worship Service D6 & Beginnings 10:30 am GROWTH TRACK Step 3: Connect	20	21	22 Shift 7:00 pm Bible Study-Café 7:30 pm	23 Senior Ministry 2:00 pm	24	25
26 MOSAIC SUNDAY Prayer Time 10:00 am Worship Service& Beginnings 10:30 am GROWTH TRACK Step 4: Discover	27	28	29 Shift 7:00 pm Bible Study-Café 7:30 pm	30		
Weekly Group & Events						
Mondays	ESL Conversation Class 7:00-8:30 pm					
Wednesday	Open Cafe 10:00 am-12:00 pm	ESL Bible Study (women) 10:00 am-11:00 pm Needlework Group (women) 10:00 am- 12:00pm		RIFC Programs: Parenting Class 11:00 am-12:00 pm		
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm, Friday 8:30am-12:30pm 6927 Rundlehorn Drive N.E. T1Y 3V4				phone: 403.280.2239 office@rockyviewalliance.com		

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VOLUME 9 ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2017



Spiritual Health: Time For a Check-up?

At the end of October, 2017 we had a mid-year congregational meeting to “check-in” around a few things Rockyview related. How are we doing as a congregation? Are we healthy? Are we moving forward? Is there anything unresolved in our past that we need to work on/work out? Like going to the doctor for a check-up on a regular basis, it’s a good thing to check in regularly when it comes to our spiritual health as a church. In the same way, it’s equally important to do this personally. To help you along with that this month, let me give you a few guiding principles to help you out. Let’s do a little personal check up on 4 Spiritual health indicators that are based on the early Christian church.

Acts 2:42 says “They [the early church] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

- The Apostles' Teaching:** Look throughout the majority of the New Testament, the Apostles were – and taught others to be people of “The Book”. In other words, they were a Bible reading/teaching/loving people! How about you then? When we are alive in relationship with God, we love the wisdom of the Bible. We love the comfort of it. We want the words of it to get deep down into our souls, so that no matter what we go through, we learn to think: “*The Lord is my shepherd*” (Psalm 23). Something is always going to be running through your mind. It happens automatically; we are made that way if it's not the thoughts and teaching of the Bible—then what will it be? So...where are you on this key indicator? Do you have a plan for regularly reading the Bible? And are you carrying that plan out? Do you meditate regularly on scripture?
- Fellowship:** This is just a fancy word for relationships within a Christian community. The question for us here is, is God transforming me in and through Christ-centered relationships? Am I seeking reconciliation where I should? Am I growing in showing grace toward others? Am I practicing the art of “speaking the truth in love”? Or...am I trying to go it alone, keeping relationships superficial, or avoiding resolving conflict? When the Holy Spirit filled the disciples in Acts 2, He ushered the disciples into a whole different way of doing relationship, a whole different way of doing Community. One of Jesus' most famous teachings about relationships is so simple, but we need to consider it for our spiritual health. Jesus said “*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*” Matt. 7:12. How are you doing in this area of relationships?
- The Breaking of Bread:** In Acts 2, when the Spirit filled the church, the disciples were already used to meeting together constantly, but continued now both in the Temple and in homes daily – sharing meals and their lives with one another. Here the question is: am I sharing my home/outside church life with others? In the Acts 2 church, this was a radically different way of doing life from other people around them. Breaking of bread refers to the sharing of meals, sharing of hospitality. Today, people generally look to take care of themselves and their families. But in the Acts 2 Church something radical happened; the Holy Spirit got ahold of people and began to prompt them to treat strangers like their family. People who had homes would open them up, share their food. They wanted to know their spiritual gifts and how to use them for the benefit of others. As God's love and power became the foundation for their lives, they lived and loved differently as a result. So: are you sharing your life/home/food/things with others?

(continued on page 2)

4. **Prayer:** The question here is: am I continually communicating with God? The best of relationships are those marked and shaped by deep, personal communication. This is especially critical in a relationship with God. In the Acts 2 church, people were devoted to prayer, which means they were devoted to having a continual, interactive, participative engagement with God. People prayed when they were together. They prayed when they were on their own. They prayed to start the day. They prayed to end the day. Why did they devote themselves to prayer? Because they knew that self-sufficiency and self-reliance are not a good life strategy. They knew that God listens and responds to prayer. They knew that God is able and that God cares. People who are spiritually healthy have an ongoing prayer-connection with God. So: are you continually communicating with God?

Overall, I hope this is a helpful checkup and a reminder to keep pursuing God in these ways. Just remember though: we don't have the power to change on our own. This is not a self-help or a personal improvement plan. We can't do this on our own. We need Jesus to help us and we need each other. Ask God to help you take steps that will lead to spiritual health and I encourage you – have a coffee/share a meal with someone to talk about spiritual health together, and see what happens!

**PASTOR SHAWN
LEAD PASTOR**



As I am writing this it is the middle of October, and it seems a little bit early to be thinking so much about Christmas. However, for me at least, it seems like fall is flying by, and Christmas will be here soon.

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, which means that we are having two services; one in the morning and one in the evening. The morning service is going to be a fun, joyful, exuberant Christmas celebration led by our Rockyview children.

Here are some of the ways that you and your family can get involved in this special Christmas Eve service.



First and foremost is by joining the choir. Children in Kindergarten through grade 6 are invited to join a children's choir which will lead our church in worship that morning. We are hoping for lots of kids to join the choir, and that they will have a great time singing some great Christmas songs.

We are also looking for some actors; two adults and three children to play a family in an ongoing skit through the service. To prepare for this special service we will be having 5 rehearsals for the choir and the actors. These rehearsals will be running from 12-2pm on Sunday afternoons in November and December. (Nov 19 & 26 and Dec 3, 10 & 17)

We are looking for some adults to help with these rehearsals. To help with food preparation and with crowd control during the practices. Starting in November we will have sign up sheets in the church house basement for the children's choir, as well as spaces for adult helpers.

If you, or your children are interested in the acting roles please speak with Pastor Russ, or Pastor Tim.

**RUSS CLUGSTON
PASTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES**

Rockyview Family Updates

November Birthdays

10 Ishaan Batura

16 Debra Armstrong

16 Cheryl Miller

17 Nicole Harder

22 Erica Clugston

25 Donna Santos (M)

26 Ashley Dunham

28 Eden Vickar

November Anniversaries

03 VICKAR, Shawn & Gini

26 BATURA, Gagan & Dipika

26 FRENTZ, Mark & Teresa

(M) Denotes an international worker and/or their family members. If you want to be included on this page or would like to be removed, please submit your name and information to the office.

You're now able to download the latest Trail Mix, the current Sunday Bulletin, and Messages as well as keep up-to-date with news and events from our website at:
www.rockyviewalliance.com



Hello Rockyview! Wow November already. School is well underway, the basement is looking better and better every day, grade 12 students can start attending University fairs, lots of people have signed up for parenting class; things are feeling so hopeful around Rockyview this fall. We are looking forward to finally having one quiet day in the office without people pounding on the walls, the foundation, and the windows!

This month I am trying to accurately, and individually honour our leaders for their efforts and identify in them the gifts they have been given by the Holy Spirit. In turn my prayer is that as a leadership team and as a church we can beginning to shift our focus of our RAC children and teens to a place where we actively search out their gifts and encourage them in that. We all know what it was like to be a kid, pre-teen, and teenager in school, some of us probably had some great times, but I'm sure we all remember the thought times. Kids these days now having to navigate 2 worlds instead of 1, the real and physical world, and the digital and online world. This 'new' world comes with its own set of hardships and challenges, for one, bullying becomes a lot easier to do behind a screen and much more prevalent now than a playground bully circle. Kids and teens have access to just about all the information they could ever want, and along with that there are sites and organizations online that tell them what they should think, or what they should do. There are sites that make them feel ashamed for who they are, and there are sites that offer community and refuge from the hurt they feel but only if they fit a certain mold. All that to say, this is a very trying time for kids and teens and this is a time where a word of kindness, a word of caring, a word of encouragement could mean a world of kindness, caring, and encouragement to them.

Over my time so far at Rockyview I have been able to see the incredible talents that our kids and youth have, and to be able to speak into their lives each week is a huge blessing. Something that I am consistently reminding the youth of, is the challenge I gave them to memorize the Great Commission and to know the Gospel message because without that knowledge, how can we be driven disciples of Christ. I challenged the whole church over the summer and I am reissuing that challenge as it has been on my heart lately, to know the great commission in Matthew 28, and to know the Gospel message. It is so empowering to know those words are meant for you, and that they are a direct commandment and purpose for us given by Christ himself before he ascended to the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

NICK KENNEDY
PASTORAL INTERN



Well, here we are, Autumn already! It is an exciting season this year at Rockyview, construction is progressing very well. I think the bricks are looking great, the crosses are a nice touch, and work on the the covered entrance is now beginning. There has also been lots of work done that isn't visible, such as drainage and sealing the building against further leakage. Work in the basement should begin shortly. We are on schedule to be using this special space again before Christmas!

As for the #WEAREROCKYVIEW campaign, pledges were made for a total of \$507,661 (that number still amazes me!) As of Sept 1, \$211,429 (42%) of the total has been given. While we are still below our target of \$800,000, I can't overstate how encouraging this has been to our board and staff. I would like to thank each of you for your prayers about this over the past year, and the decisions that you made regarding our church and your generosity in giving. I am keenly aware that these are difficult financial times for many and am very grateful for your faithfulness.

Another component of the campaign was Kingdom Expansion. An 1/8th of the total funds received are being set aside for this purpose, and the following guidelines have been established as to how these funds will be used:

- Internally within and local to Rockyview to uphold, support the Rockyview vision and mission as well as further the intent of the #wearerockyview campaign to seek, build, transform
- To address kingdom growth in the areas of community outreach, programming, ministry, new initiatives, missions and church plant
- To provide resources for land use, development, rezoning, strategic partnerships, etc
- To provide adequate personnel for the current and anticipated kingdom growth programming and ministry on a specific project basis. Funds will not be used for general staffing.
- For project based funding, there will be a clearly defined proposal for use of the funds very similar to a grant type fund where the dollar amount, duration of the project, and intent for the funds will be clearly defined
- The kingdom funds will be in place and available for the duration of the #wearerockyview campaign plus one year
- If all funds are not utilized during the specified time period, the Board of Elders must go back to the membership with a recommendation of how the funds should be reallocated.

As you can see, there's a lot going on right now. I ask that you continue to pray for Rockyview, that we are able to connect with our neighbours and for the ongoing construction. I continue to praise God for His goodness, He has been with us during our difficult times and will see us into a season of plenty.

BRENT TURNER
ELDER



Join us Wednesday, November 1st, 2017 in the Cafe for a 6 week Parenting Course lead by Judy Arnall. Parenting the digital generation can be challenging and exciting. In this course, we will explore best parenting practices of raising today's child. Childcare is available for children ages 5 and under. To register please email the office with your information at office@rockyviewalliance.com or call at 403-280-2239.

Date: Starts Wednesday, November 1st, 2017

Time: 11:00am - 12:00pm

Cost: \$5.00 for each class or \$15.00 for the full course

Childcare: Ages 5 & below (space limited)

Light Lunch provided

WEEK 1	Parenting Styles, Temperament Traits, Picky Eating, Oral Health, Parent Self-Care
WEEK 2	Developmental Milestones and Stages, Executive Function, Attachment Theory, Separation Anxiety, Sleep Challenges, Toilet Training
WEEK 3	Serve and Return, Brain Development, Toxic and Tolerable Stress, Play, Healthy Self-esteem, Communication, Safety
WEEK 4	Feelings, Temper Tantrums, Anger Management, Behaviour and Guidance
WEEK 5	Multiple Intelligences, Homework, Chores, Digital Citizenship
WEEK 6	Peer Pressure, Bullying, Talking to Kids about Sex and Drugs, Preparation for Adulthood



Free
Christmas Food Box
Saturday, December 23, 2017 ~ 10am-2pm
Rockyview Alliance Church

This Christmas, Rockyview Alliance Church is privileged to be the distribution centre for Mustard Seed Ministry Food Hampers in northeast Calgary. This is a wonderful opportunity to open our doors to the community and show Christ-inspired hospitality to our neighbours.

You may donate the items below by depositing them in the marked drop box in the foyer to show love to families in the NE who are interested in receiving a hamper.

Contact Nick at nick@rockyviewalliance.com to volunteer at our Hamper distribution Christmas Celebration at Rockyview on Saturday, December 23 or to inquire about registering a family in need.

- Canned vegetables
 - Potatoes
 - Boxed Stuffing
 - Gravy Mix Packages
 - Cranberry Sauce
- Pickles
 - 2 Litre bottles of pop or juice
 - Coffee or tea
 - Non-refrigerated dessert
 - 1 tinfoil roaster



I have been writing a lot about joy in the previous Trail Mixes and here I go again. James 1 says, *“Consider it pure joy my brothers and sisters whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”*

For a while during my years of suffering and loss, I found this verse particularly difficult to swallow. My trials did not feel like joy, they felt like misery and pain and disappointment. But God began to slowly reveal to me something monumentally transformative. He helped me to ask the question, “What is broken in me that needs healing?”

Of course, I could make a quick list of my health issues: renal failure, hernia, high blood pressure, anxiety and stress disorder, gout, reactive arthritis. But that is not all that is broken in me. I am broken and sick spiritually. I have a faith that is weak and immature. I have an understanding of God that is skewed by my mortal perceptions and circumstances. I am broken mentally. I am filled with incorrect ideas and perceptions of who I am and how I function best in society. I am overly dependent on the praise of people. I still feel that I need to do stuff to be significant. I chase after things that won't last and neglect the things that are eternal. I am broken.

Not only that, but every physical healing, no matter what it is, has a shelf life. By that I mean that we are all going to die. Isn't death the ultimate slap in the face of physical healing? If Jesus really did heal all those holy people who humbly asked, wouldn't there be even a few 4000-year old saints walking around? Jesus healed Job, a man filled with pains and sores. But one day, sometime after that healing, Job's body broke down again, and that time there was no healing. Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead. This is an incredible story. The reality though is that Lazarus had to suffer and die a second time. Everyone dies because they weren't healed.

But here's the amazing news about that non-physical brokenness: Christ is healing me of those things. I am becoming less of a people pleaser. I am trusting more in God. At first, I complained loudly after only a couple of days of suffering, now I can go almost a year before I give in to my immature despair and lack of faith. Maybe one day, it will be five years before I start to question God. He is healing me! He has always been healing me. And that healing never ends.

And here's an even bigger kicker: God uses physical brokenness to achieve healing in the other realms. He allows brokenness in the temporal things to produce healing in the eternal things. That's just good business if you ask me.

There is more to be gained by not relieving me of my suffering than by doing so. Therefore, it seems to me that the kindest thing God could ever do for me is to allow me to go through trials of many kinds.

Praise God that He goes through them with me.

And so, more and more as I mature, I can view my suffering as pure joy. God is doing an incredible work within me.

TIM BERGMANN
INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Investing in Girls at Risk

By Chantelle McIver

We have all heard the stats that more than 600 million girls live in poverty in the developing world. The results are often irreversible and devastating to their futures. We can read this, we can be shocked, but the most important thing is- something can be done about it!



After spending two years doing a small literacy class and hearing the stories of so many young women our team felt compelled to action. I met young women who were married off in their early teens and who more often than not returned to their parent's home after a few months, their illusions of marriage and joy shattered as they were tossed out like trash. We met girls who were suffering from abuse at home in the hands of neighbours or uncles and needed protection and support and care as they went through difficult times. There was a big gap in services available for these young women and a lack of interaction, mentoring and care as well. We started to dream that if we could reach these girls before they come to that kind of situation, we could have considerable impact in their lives. But how do you do that in a country that is consistently one of the poorest and worst off in the entire world and where both religious and cultural influences put girls at risk?

It was under this realization that the Niger Vocational Training Centre for Girls at Risk was launched. In the summer of 2010 the school opened with its first class of 60 girls. We felt it was important to give these girls solid, marketable skills to help support their families but that it was also equally important to invest in them in an emotional level. We put a strong focus on life skills with topics such as malaria prevention, hygiene, sexuality and family planning. We also purposefully include moral lessons on honesty, self-esteem, loyalty and compassion, using Old Testament stories. I strongly believe that a well rounded, woman of integrity has a much better chance to succeed even with all the hardships of life in Niger. We have a strong emphasis on mentoring the girls, visiting them in their homes and showing them as much love and hope as we can.

I also saw early on that it was important to build strong trust relationships with the families of the girls. We had many meetings and there is an agreement in place with each family that they will not marry their daughters off while she is attending our program. These parents also stood behind us when some members of the community tried to start rumours or tear us down. Our school had become “their school” and they were protective of us and their daughter's education!

7 years later we have seen huge success in the lives of many of the girls. The story of Miriama who was with us for 3 years as a teenager. She graduated as an excellent sewer and got married to a man of her choosing and has two healthy, happy children. She set up her sewing machine in her home in a small area they cleared for it. She takes orders from other women who have her make clothes for them. She makes items like aprons and bags for sales to the expat community as well. She has had such success that she was able to use her own money to buy all their bedroom furniture and re-roof their hut with new straw mats after recent storms. Her family is proud of her and she continues to chase big dreams! While not every girl stayed for the whole program or had such happy endings, we see the way we have been able to sit with them and cry in hard times, and visit even when they aren't a student anymore, and be thankful for this open relationship to care for them.

Now, as I look into the faces of these young women I see a growing understanding that they are not alone. Hopelessness begins to be replaced with hope that maybe they will have a chance to succeed and that they will be equipped to choose a better path than their mothers before them.

There is an African Proverb that says "If you want to go quickly, go alone; if you want to go far, go together."

For more information on the Niger Vocational Training School for Girls at Risk please visit www.nvoc.ca or check out their page on Facebook!

Chantelle McIver and her husband Paul have served as Alliance International Workers in Niger since 2008. If you'd like to give to support workers like Paul and Chantelle, designate 'Global Advance Fund' on your offering.

Be not dismayed,
for I am your God:
I will strengthen you...

Isaiah 41:10



I have been thinking a lot about relationships lately, and how God has created us to be in relationships with Him and other people. Genesis 2:18 says “It is not good that the man should be alone...” and God’s relationship with mankind is shown throughout scripture.

Isaiah 41:10 “fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” is an important scripture for me, I find that it beautifully illustrates God’s plan of our relationship with Him. God understands our fears, He promises to give us strength and be with us during difficult times.

Now, building and strengthening relationships takes effort and investment of time, energy and spirit by all parties; when we commit and make this a priority we are rewarded with the deepening of the relationship. This is true of our relationship with God as shown in James 4:8 “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you...” One person cannot build a relationship on their own, nor can our relationship with God be developed without our direct involvement. God is always with us, we need to cultivate habits of spending time with Him. As my relationship with God continues to mature, I feel drawn to spend time with God and as I spend more time reaching out to God and being open to Him I am learning to be more honest with God about how I’m really doing. I can be angry with Him, I can share my pain and disappointment and by doing so I allow Him to show me personally the love that I read about in Isaiah 41:10.

Here’s the catch; I have found that developing a habit of spending time with God requires a bit of effort on my part. I need to read my bible regularly, I need to pray often and I need to be still and listen for Him.

How is your relationship with your Creator? Are you currently spending enough Quality Time with Him? If not, ask yourself why this is. Perhaps reviewing these questions periodically will help us to continue to develop a deeper relationship with our Heavenly Father.

**BRENT TURNER
ELDER**



PROGRAMS AND CLASSES



FALL 2017

6927 Rundlehorn Drive NE
Calgary, Alberta T1Y 3V4
403-280-2239
office@rockyviewalliance.com

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

CONVERSATION CLASS (all levels welcome) Mondays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Register: Phone 403.280.2239, or
e-mail office@rockyviewalliance.com

OPEN CAFÉ

Wednesdays: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Join us for a free cup of coffee and snacks, and meet new people!

JOB SEMINAR

Wednesdays: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Register: Phone 403.280.2239, or
e-mail office@rockyviewalliance.com
Dates: Sept 27-Oct 18
Lunch Provided

PARENTING TIPS & TRICKS

Wednesdays: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Register: Phone 403.280.2239, or
e-mail office@rockyviewalliance.com
Dates: Nov 1 - Dec 13

FOR WOMEN!

NEEDLEWORK GROUP

Wednesdays: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Register: Phone 403.280.2239, or
e-mail office@rockyviewalliance.com

ESL BIBLE STUDY CLASS

Wednesdays: 10:00 am – 11:00 noon
Childcare Provided
Register: Phone 403.280.2239, or
e-mail office@rockyviewalliance.com